

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, and 19 are amended, claim 6 was previously canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-5, and 7-20 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 was objected to because of the following informalities: the new limitation includes that 'if the humidity value has changed' after [paraphrased] A, B, C. As claimed, this means that the criteria for A, B, and C all need to have been met before the printer components will reconfigure. Examiner noted that the specification, as cited on page 7 of remarks says A or B or C. Appropriate correction was required.

Claim 19 was objected to because of the following informalities: Examiner noted that the claim claims 'A toner cartridge comprising:... printer components that are configured to use a default value if the humidity value is not available during operation'. This suggests that applicant had disclosed a toner cartridge when in Fig. 1, applicant clearly taught the printer components were not a part of the toner cartridge. Appropriate correction was required.

Applicant has amended claim 10 to more clearly recite the subject matter therein. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection for claim 10.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to more clearly recite the subject matter therein. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection for claim 19.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 19

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996) in view of Hirst (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,174) and Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,097). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

The rejection states in part that “the combination of Amano and Hirst does not teach specifically placing a sensor status monitoring **on the toner cartridge.**” However, the Examiner asserts that “Nakano teaches specifically placing a sensor on the toner cartridge for status monitoring. Fig. 2 shows a sensor 55 physically attached to the toner cartridge 20 discussed in col. 5 lines 62-64. Thus, sending sensed information from the toner cartridge.” (Office Action, page 6, paragraphs 2-3). From Applicant’s review of the Nakano reference, there is not a description, teaching, or suggestion in Column 5, lines 62-64 and Figure 2 of **a toner cartridge comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface.**

Specifically, Column 5, lines 62-64 of Nakano states, “In order to detect the residual toner level in the toner cartridge 30, a toner sensor 55 is provided in the lower portion outside of the toner cartridge 30 (see FIG. 2).” However, the toner sensor 55 in Figure 2 of Nakano appears to be on the lower portion of the process cartridge and not on the toner cartridge 30. Furthermore, there is no other reference to the toner cartridge of the apparatus described in the Nakano reference as being comprised of a sensor. For instance, Figures 5-7 and 12-15 of Nakano show views of a toner cartridge, but none include a sensor.

Furthermore, with regard to Applicant’s claim 2, which depends from independent claim 1, the Examiner cites the Amano reference as teaching “a . . . second communication interface.” Specifically, the rejection states, “The sensor interface 410 is configured to take sensor information and transfer it to the first communication interface 106 as shown in Fig. 15. Another example of a second interface is 16 in Fig. 2.” (Office Action, Page 7, Paragraph 1). From Applicant’s review of Amano, the element 410 in Figure 16 appears to be “a sensor input unit . . . that detects the presence or absence of the printing paper within conveying paths for registration, paper ejection, both-side printing and reversed printing.” (Column

21, lines 16-19). Moreover, the sensor input unit is not located on a toner cartridge. Furthermore, the print unit interface 16 in Figure 2 of Amano is not located on a toner cartridge.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

wherein the toner cartridge is comprised of a humidity sensor and a second communication interface

Also, Applicant's independent claim 19, as amended, recites in part:

A toner cartridge comprising:

toner for a printer system;
a humidity sensor configured to detect a humidity level and generate a humidity value that corresponds to the humidity level; and
a communication interface

Support for this claim language can be found in the text of the Applicant's specification as originally filed on page 5, lines 1-3, and as illustrated in Figure 1.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1 and 19 is not described, taught or suggested in the Amano, Hirst, or Nakano references, either individually or in combination, and that claims 1 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 1 and 19, as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

Claims 5, 7, and 20

Claims 5, 7 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996), Hirst (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,174) and Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,097) and further in view of Allen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,094).

Claims 5 and 7 depend from independent claim 1 which, as amended, is now in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above in view of Amano, Hirst, and Nakano. Similarly, claim 20 depends from independent claim 19 which, as amended, is now in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above in view of Amano, Hirst, and Nakano. The Allen reference does not cure the deficiencies of Amano, Hirst, and Nakano with respect to independent claims 1 and 19. That is,

Allen does not describe, teach, or suggest **a toner cartridge comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface** as provided in Applicant's independent claims 1 and 19, as amended.

As such, each and every element of independent claims 1 and 19 is not described, taught, or suggested in Amano, Hirst, Nakano, and Allen either independently or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection with respect to claims 5 and 7 which depend from independent claim 1 and with respect to claim 20 which depends from independent claim 19.

Claims 10-13, 15, 17, and 18

Claims 10-13, 15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996), Hirst (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,174) and Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,097) in view of Maruta et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,369).

For the reasons stated above, neither Amano, Hirst, nor Nakano, either independently or in combination, describes, teaches, or suggests **a toner cartridge comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface**. In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 10, as amended, recites in part, "wherein the toner cartridge is comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface."

The Maruta reference does not cure the deficiencies of Amano, Hirst, and Nakano with respect to independent claim 10. That is, Maruta does not describe, teach, or suggest "wherein the toner cartridge is comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface," as recited in Applicant's independent claim 10, as amended.

As such, each and every element of independent claim 10 is not described, taught, or suggested in Amano, Hirst, Nakano, and Maruta either independently or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection with respect to independent claim 10, as well as those claims which depend therefrom.

Claims 14 and 16

Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996), Hirst (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,174) Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,097) and Maruta et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,369), and further in view of Allen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,094).

Claims 14 and 16 depend from independent claim 10 which, as amended, is now in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above in view of Amano, Hirst, Nakano, and Muruta. The Allen reference does not cure the deficiencies of Amano, Hirst, Nakano, and Muruta with respect to independent claim 10. That is, Allen does not describe, teach, or suggest “wherein the toner cartridge is comprised of a humidity sensor and a communication interface,” as recited in Applicant’s independent claim 10, as amended.

As such, each and every element of independent claim 10 is not described, taught, or suggested in Amano, Hirst, Nakano, Muruta, and Allen either independently or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection with respect to claims 14 and 16 which depend from independent claim 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: **MS AMENDMENT** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28th day of March, 2006.

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Date: 3/28/2006